

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

November 25, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

No School

November 27-29

Report Card Session

December 2

Dear Families,

### Report Card Information Session

Come learn about our new standards-based report card during an informational session for Holmes School parents and guardians. The session will be held on Monday, December 2 from 6 -7 pm in the Media Center. Mr. McCauley will guide you through the new report card and explain the connections to the Common Core State Standards.

### 5 for the Philippines

Student Council is sponsoring a fund drive to raise money to aid the disaster relief efforts in the Philippines. Student Council is asking students to donate 5 (pennies, dimes, quarters, dollars). Money collected will go to Oxfam International and Doctors Without Borders. Both of these organizations are already on the ground and working in the Philippines. Student Council will match donations, so please be generous.

### Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to begin practicing keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) Guiseppe Arcimboldo was an Italian painter best known for creating imaginative portrait heads made entirely of such objects as fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish, and books – that is, he painted representations of these objects on the canvas arranged in such a way that the whole collection of objects formed a recognizable likeness of the portrait subject. He lived from 1527-1593. He started Surrealism. Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali picked up where he left off. Surrealism is a juxtaposition of everyday, common things in odd and surprising ways. We are finishing up a collage project where we traced the shadow of our silhouetted head on poster board and created a self-portrait using magazine and encyclopedia images to create surreal self-portraits.

**Music** - We will working on our pieces for the Spanish/Music Showcase this week and each class

will have an opportunity to perform one song in our music assembly at the end of the day Friday. Margaret and I will be sending out another notice with all the information for the showcase. Remember attendance is part of their grade so if your child cannot come on the evening of 12/10 please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org)

**Chorus** - Our next chorus performance will be Saturday, November 23rd at the Oak Park Arms. The permission slip was sent home. **If you do not receive it, please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).** We will be singing at the end of the year at a Chicago Sky (women's basketball) game at half time. The date is TBD because the season dates will not be decided on till January. I will need some parental help with this performance. If you are interested in being a chorus parent please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).

**Spanish** - Students will continue to work with their new story, Juan El Bombero, and prepare for the Spanish and Music showcase in December. The story will be posted to the blog this week, and students are encouraged to read the story to family and friends for 10 extra points. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - Book talks took place over the last two library sessions, introducing students to the Rebecca Caudill Young Reader's Book Award nominees (we just call them the Caudills!). The full list can be viewed [here](#). To vote in February, students must read or listen to a minimum of three books on the list. Past winners include *The Hunger Games*, *Smile*, and *The Lightning Thief*, so you know the nominees are worth the read! Which books will you read? Don't forget, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) .

**Physical Education** - ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) Heartland adventure is heading our way in p.e. for the entire month of November. This is an activity that teaches our boys and girls the functions of the circulatory and respiratory systems. Also our annual turkey trot is scheduled for November 25, 2013, more information to come.

### **Resource**

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

### **Reading/Literature**

This week, we'll continue talking about the universal themes we can identify as we read. We'll look at fables and short stories to understand how we can learn life lessons from books. Also, we'll compare and contrast stories to understand how themes are similar or different. Students will have the opportunity to show what they know at the end of the week.

### **Writing**

This week, students will begin working on a narrative essay. Students should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website.

### **Math**

This week, we will finish up the Unit 2 assessment. Next week, we will begin a short unit on multiplying and dividing with decimals. Our goal is to complete the unit before Winter Break.

### **Science**

We will complete our first unit this week and move to the Variables unit after the Thanksgiving break. Students will learn to create and conduct experiments using variables and controls. This will lead to preparation for our science fair.

### **Social Studies**

This week we will begin to study explorers. We will be focusing on Marco Polo, Christopher

Columbus and the Spanish Conquistadors. Throughout the week we will be trying to answer the question, "What effect did early explorers have on the Americas?" This will lead into our studies of the first American settlements and colonies that will take place in December.

Current Events will continue this week. Anyone who was unable to present during their assigned date will be asked to present. All the materials are available on our Wiki (<http://5k-socialstudies.wikispaces.com/home>).

### **Spelling/Word Study**

Students will have Spelling words this week. We have made a change to Spelling routine! Students now have a Spelling Activity Menu for homework. Students must choose three activities to complete. These activities will be turned in on Friday, before the Spelling test.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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